

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 28 1976
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TELETYPE

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 H-02 L-03 DHA-02 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5822

American Citizens Residing

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, AR, ~~LOPEZ~~, GWENDA MAE ~~LOKEN~~

SUBJECT: W/W: ARREST: GWENDA MAE ~~LOKEN~~ ~~LOPEZ~~

*Argentina
U.S.A.*

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3144, 3133; STATE 126976 AND PREVIOUS

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JUN 2 1976

CONSULAR OFFICER PERSONALLY VISITED SUBJECT WHO IS CURRENTLY
DETAINED AT ROSARIO POLICE HEADQUARTERS CHARGED UNDER ARGENTINE
LAW ARTICLE 20.840 (SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES). HER MORALE AND
HEALTH APPEARED TO BE SATISFACTORY. SUBJECT'S FATHER AND HIS
ATTORNEY IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOW ENDEAVORING TO OBTAIN
LEGAL COUNSEL FOR SUBJECT IN ARGENTINA. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR HUMBERT H. HUMPHREY INTERESTED.

2. ON MAY 26, CONSULAR OFFICER VISITED ROSARIO POLICE HEAD-
QUARTERS AND WAS PERMITTED IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO SUBJECT. HE WAS
ABLE TO SPEAK TO SUBJECT ALONE IN A PRIVATE OFFICE WITHOUT ANY
PRISON MATRONS OR POLICE OFFICERS PRESENT.

3. SUBJECT'S MORALE AND HEALTH APPEARED TO BE SATISFACTORY.
SHE SAID SHE NOW HAD NO SERIOUS COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE FOOD OR
HER PHYSICAL TREATMENT BY PRISON PERSONNEL. SHE IS PROVIDED
TWO ADEQUATE MEALS DAILY. HER MOTHER-IN-LAW, MRS. HELENA
LOPEZ, WHO RESIDES IN ROSARIO, CANNOT PERSONALLY VISIT HER

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BECAUSE OF INCOMMUNICADO RULING IN EFFECT, BUT REGULARLY SENDS TO HER THROUGH PRISON AUTHORITIES SOME NEEDED PERSONEL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHES, VITAMIN PILLS, SOAP, ETC., SUBJECT MENTIONED THAT SHE SHARES A LARGE CELL WITH APPROXIMATELY 30 OTHER WOMEN, ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THAT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED PHYSICAL EXERCISE PRIVILEGES OUTSIDE IN PRISON COURTYARD. SHE HOPES THIS SITUATION WILL IMPROVE SOON.

4. SUBJECT TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER THAT WHEN FIRST ARRESTED, SHE WAS TORTURED AND GIVEN ELECTRIC PRODS ON HER BODY AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SHE DOES NOT WISH HER FAMILY TO KNOW ABOUT THIS NOR DOES SHE DESIRE EMBASSY TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS, WRITTEN OR ORAL, TO ARGENTINE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN BUENOS AIRES BECAUSE SHE FEARS IT MIGHT PREJUDICE HER LEGAL CASE AND PROLONG HER CONFINEMENT. POLICE CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS IN ROSARIO DENIED TORTURE, WHEN CONOFF RAISED POSSIBILITY WITH HIM. SHE SAID SHE WAS EXAMINED BY POLICE MEDICAL DOCTORS ON MAY 8, AND MAY 13, AND ALLEGEDLY THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF MISTREATMENT.

5. SUBJECT'S LETTER TO HER MOTHER IN THE UNITED STATES, WRITTEN PRIOR TO HER ARRESTAN INDICATED SHE WAS SUFFERING FROM AN URINARY INFECTION. SHE SAID AT THE TIME SHE HAD TAKEN APPROPRIATE MEDICATION AND HAD CURED HER INFECTION COMPLETELY. SHE FURTHER SAID HER MAIN DESIRE IS TO RETURN HOME TO HER FAMILY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT IF SHE WERE TO GAIN HER RELEASE FROM DETENTION, SHE WOULD DEPART IMMEDIATELY FOR THE UNITED STATES.

6. FORMAL CHARGES UNDER ARGENTINE LAW ARTICLE 20.840 (SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES) HAVE BEEN FILED AGAINST SUBJECT. POLICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS WERE COMPLETED AND SENT ON MAY 26 TO SECOND CORPS MILITARY COMMAND IN ROSARIO FOR REVIEW, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL BE FORWARDED FOR STUDY AND ADJUDICATION TO FEDERAL COURT JUDGE, DR. PEDRO ALEGRIA CACERES, WITH OFFICES AT BOULEVARD ORONIO 840, ROSARIO. IT IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE FOR JUDGE TO REACH FINAL DECISION THIS CASE. CONSULAR OFFICER WAS TOLD CONFIDENTIALLY BY POLICE CONTACTS THAT IN SIMILAR CASES UNDER ARTICLE 20.840, IT COULD TAKE ANYWHERE FROM 30 DAYS TO 9 MONTHS FOR FINAL JUDICIAL DECISION TO BE REACHED AT WHICH TIME PRISONER'S RELEASE MIGHT BECOME POSSIBLE.

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7. ON MAY 25 AND MAY 27, SUBJECT'S FATHER DR. LOKEN, M. D. AND HIS ATTORNEY, MR. JAMES PEDERSEN, BOTH ON MINNESOTA, TELEPHONED CONSULAR OFFICER LONG DISTANCE TO ASK FOR A STATUS REPORT ON SUBJECT'S CASE. THIS WAS FURNISHED TO THEM. DR. LOKEN ASKED CONSULAR OFFICER ON MAY 25 TO PASS ON A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO HIS DAUGHTER WHEN VISITING HER. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE WANTED HIS DAUGHTER TO KNOW THAT THE ENTIRE LOKEN FAMILY SENT THEIR BEST REGARDS TO HER AND WISHED HER SPPEY RELEASE FROM DETENTION. SUBJECT WAS EXCEEDINGLY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE AND HER MORALE SEEMED TO INCREASE IMMEASURABLY. WHILE NORMALLY NOT ALLOWED, SUBJECT WAS ABLE TO WRITE A FRIENDLY AND OPTIMISTIC 2-PAGE LETTER TO HER FAMILY WHICH CONSULAR OFFICER, UPON HIS RETURN TO BUENOS AIRES, READ TO DR. LOKEN OVER THE PHONE ON MAY 27 AND MAILED OUT TO HIM ON SAME DATE.

8. MR. PEDERSEN IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO OBTAIN ATTORNEY(S) IN ROSARIO AND/OR BUENOS AIRES TO REPRESENT SUBJECT. NAMES OF SEVERAL ATTORNEYS HAVE BEEN MENTIONED FOR THIS CASE. THEY ARE DR. HORACIO CESAR SUAREZ OF THE LAW FIRM, BECKER AND MCKENZIE, CORRIENTES 327, 11TH FLOOR, BUENOS AIRES (TELEPHONE 31-6275); DR. MARIO HECTOR ARDIGO, OFFICES AT PARAGUAY 670, ROSARIO (TELEPHONES 61537 AND 48969); AND DR. DARDO RACCIATTI, OFFICES AT PUEYRREDON 566, ROSARIO (TELEPHONE 38869).

9. IN CONSULTATION WITH SUBJECT'S FATHER, MR. PEDERSEN WILL SOON MAKE A CHOICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL IN ARGENTINA AND CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON LEGAL FEES, NECESSARY LEGAL ACTIONS AND BRIEFS TO ROSARIO FEDERAL COURT, ETC.

10. PURSUANT TO U.S. PRIVACY ACT, SUBJECT SIGNED A WRITTEN STATEMENT, NOW INCLUDED IN EMBASSY FILES, BY WHICH SHE AUTHORIZES DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY TO DISCUSS HER CASE WITH HER PARENTS, HER PARENTS' LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES, SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. CONGRESS, AND ANYONE WHOM THE DEPARTMENT JUDGES TO HAVE A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN HER CASE. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE DOES NOT REPEAT NOT AUTHORIZE DEPARTMENT TO DISCUSS HER CASE WITH MEMBERS OF THE PRESS.

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11. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF ALL SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS MATTER.

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